

# LAWLESSNESS:

## The Knell of Our Closing Age

By Louis S. Bauman \*

### Through Lawlessness, "The Anointed Cherub That Covereth" Fell.

"Thou wast the anointed cherub that covereth.... Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity (lawlessness) was found in thee" (Ezek. 28:15).

Nothing has been revealed more clearly by the God Who sees the end from the beginning, than that the sun of our age, even as the sun of every previous age, will set over "wild waves of the sea, foaming out their shame" (Jude 13) in raging billows of lawlessness. The entrance of sin into God's universe is a great mystery. But, of one thing we may be sure,—sin was conceived by the spirit of lawlessness. "The anointed cherub" (which was Satan) that fell, and, in falling, first broke the heart of God, was driven from "the midst of the stones of fire" when "perverseness (which is lawlessness) was found in him." And, lawlessness quickly gave birth to violence. (Ezek. 28:16).

### Through Lawlessness, Angels Fell

"God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (II Peter 2:4).

"Chains" are for the lawless. "As natural brute beasts" (V. 12), the lawless recognize no rule save by the law of force and violence. They "count it pleasure to riot" (V. 13). They devise the mobs which, "while they promise them liberty, they themselves are servants of corruption" (V. 19). Jude confirms the prophecy of Peter: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in chains.... Likewise these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion and speak evil of dignities" (Jude 6, 8). When angels "left their own habitation," they crossed the "thou-shalt-not" of Jehovah, and joined Lucifer in his lawlessness.

### Through Lawlessness, Man Fell

"And the Lord commanded the man, saying....Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.... And when the woman saw.... she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Gen. 2:16, 17).

And there we have the first "thou-shalt-not" of God for man—the first law given with penalty at-

tached for transgression. The first rebellion of man was against this law, with the consequent shedding of blood (Gen. 3:21) and the unsheathing of the sword (Gen. 3:24). This first sin involved no act of immorality. It was Simon-pure lawlessness. As ever, there followed in its wake, fear, an attempt to cover up, an effort to get away from God, excuse-making, loss of liberty, ending in sorrow and suffering and death!

### Through Lawlessness, The Antediluvians Fell

"And it came to pass....that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose....And God saw that the wickedness of man was great....And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come" (Gen. 6:1, 2, 5, 13).

Whoever these "sons of God" may have been, men or angels, it is evident that, even as "the angels that sinned," they "left their own habitation" and in lawlessness fell. The inevitable followed: "The earth was corrupt before God....and filled with violence" (Gen. 6:11). Then came judgment! Corruption, violence, and judgment were but the results. Lawlessness was the cause.

### Through Lawlessness, The Postdiluvians Fell

"And God....said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth....And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower....lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth (and thus 'replenish' it). And the Lord said, Behold!....this they begin to do!....Go to, let us go down....So the Lord scattered them abroad upon the face of the whole earth: and they left off to build the city" (Gen. 9:1; 11:4-8).

Note: Man said to God, "Go to"! And then man said to man, "Let us"! God immediately accepted the challenge. God said to man, "Go to"! And then God said to Elohim, "Let us"! Elohim, the triune God, won! When men or nations shut the Eternal out of their activities, and in pride build the towers of their boasted civilization to dizzy heights, they have only the farther to fall into the abyss of confusion and ruin—for fall they will! This present generation of men, with its sputtering jargon of voices, groping about for light on problems that stagger, only to find itself in deeper night—this babbling Babel is asking betimes between its bubbles for the "why" of all its confusion. There is a "why"! Men have said, "Go to" to God!

### Through Lawlessness, Sodom and Gomorrah Fell

"Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to

fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire" (Jude 6, 7).

All of which means that, one of the world's most advanced civilizations (if the archeologist is to be believed) went into decay because it also "despised dominion, and spake evil of dignities" (V. 8). Peter tells us that Lot "vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds" as they continued to "despise government" (II Peter 2:7-10). God held back His wrath until law and order gave way to mob violence. (See Gen. 19:1-13). Then judgment, swift as lightning from heaven, fell! A civilization that gives itself over to be controlled by mob violence is a civilization that is doomed! It always has been so—it always will be so!

### **Through Lawlessness, The Kingdom of Israel and Judah Fell**

"They mocked the messengers of God, and despised His words, and misused His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy" (II Chron. 36:16). "This is a rebellious people...children that hear not the law of the Lord: which say...to the prophets,...**Get you out of the way**, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us" (Isaiah 30:9-11).

Ah! They, like the babblers of Babel, also told the God of heaven to "Go to"! But, instead of God doing the going, Israel went to her grave in the land of God-alone-knows where! — and Judah dragged herself along in chains before the lash to "the rivers of Babylon," where she sat down and wept—yea, she wept as she "remembered Zion" (Ps. 137: 1).

None but the willfully blind can fail to see that the same evil spirit that inveigled men into conflicts with Omnipotence in the world's earliest civilizations, is one and the same spirit that is at work on earth today, holding mighty revivals in every land. Russia, having invited God in no uncertain terms, to pack His baggage and by May 1st, 1937, get off one-sixth the surface of the earth He created, heads the procession of modern converts to this evil spirit. Only a few days ago, as we write, Minister of Propaganda, Goebbels, of Germany, publicly informed the Lord God of the heavens that He must be a good and submissive Nazi if He wishes to remain in Germany. In December, 1934, down at Queretaro, Mexico, the dominant political group of that nation held a convention. Arnulfo Perez, a leading party spokesman, was wildly applauded when he said:

"We should forget God and the clergy. The revolution of Mexico wants no God, and the Revolutionary party wants no God."

Another delegate said:

"Some one has said that God has strong arms to

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guide the destiny of Mexico, but we know that our farmers and laborers have still stronger arms and will find their own destiny."

The last five words we cannot doubt. The others are open to question. However, Russia, Germany and Mexico are not the only modern conspirators attempting to dagger the Most High. France has long been in that group. Turkey, Poland, Japan and others are on the point of joining them in giving God notice to vacate. Then there are some other nations — some of them much closer home—who, in ways more polite and in ways more diplomatic, are assuming a "Get-you-out-of-the-way" attitude toward the ambassadors of the Kingdom of God. Well, all this was foreseen three thousand years and more ago by the God Who ruleth in the heavens. He foresaw this day of the Antichrist, with all its lawlessness and rebellion. And, long ago He gave to rebellious kings His answer:

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?" The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His Anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

"He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure. Yet have I set My King upon My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now, therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth" (Ps. 2:1-10).

Do the captains of the nations ever read anything apart from the blood-and-thunder stuff that flares at them from every putrid news stands they pass? Do they ever seek the brown pages of history that stand on the shelves of all the great libraries of the world? Can the experience of a hundred empires teach them nothing? Know they not that whenever and wherever men have said "Go to" to God, and "Let us" to each other, that they have only succeeded in arousing divine indignation that has swept them away into darkness, distress, destruction, death and damnation? Every empire of man that has said "Go to" to God, has dazzled, spluttered, effervesced, collapsed, and faded away into the midnight of oblivion! Germany,

Russia, Mexico, and even the United States of America, will form no exceptions. History will only repeat.

### Through Lawlessness, The Spiritual Kingdom of Israel Fell.

"Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the Word of God should have first been spoken to you: but, seeing ye put it from you...lo, we turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46). "On them which fell, severity" (Rom. 11:22).

The Lord of glory never would have suffered His shameful death on the cross, had law and order prevailed. Only a mob could have put Him to death. Yelling as the madmen of mobs do, thirsting for blood as mob murderers ever do, the cry went up: "Crucify! Crucify!" What mattered it that a just ruler of the Jews should plead: "Doth our law judge any man before it hear him?" (John 7:51). What mattered it that a Roman governor, examining Him, "found no fault at all?" The mob had sniffed blood. Before it, a spineless governor quailed. (His progeny still lives!) When "Pilate saw that he prevailed nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water and (coward that he was) washed his hands" of the whole affair. Whereupon the mob, frothing at the mouth and howling with delight, proceeded to mangle the Lord of glory, lashing His cheeks with reeds and slashing His back and thighs, ripping His garments from His quivering form, and hanging His lacerated Body in bloody nakedness upon a tree! The mob finally departed, feeling it had done its duty; for, had not a blasphemer been done to the death? But, Son of God, or blasphemer out of the pit—that did not change the fact that Israel had departed from her great lawgiver, and law and order were crucified that day! "O Jerusalem! Jerusalem! which killeth and stonest!" Soon the shout of her mobs gave way to her agonizing groans, as Titus, the Roman, pounded down her walls. Lawlessness ended the age!

### Through Lawlessness, Gentile Dominion Will Fall.

"I will make a full end of all the nations" (Jer. 30:11). "Tell us,... What shall be the sign of...the end of the age? And Jesus answered and said,...Iniquity (lawlessness) shall abound" (Matt. 24:3, 12). "The mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only there is one that restraineth now until he be taken out of the way. And then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of His mouth, and bring to naught with the manifestation of His coming" (II Thess. 2:7, 8, R. V.; of Cf. Rev. 19:11-20).

Comment is unnecessary. The leaven of lawlessness was working in the days of the apostles. A lawless mob crucified the Lord of glory. A lawless mob stoned Stephen to death. Lawless

mobs camped continually on the trail of Paul. For centuries the leaven has been fermenting, and fomentation will come to its fullness at the close of our age. The spirit of lawlessness will find its consummation in the "Lawless One"—even that "man of sin," the Antichrist.

### Lawlessness Has Its Roots in The Home.

The distressing fact confronts us that the rampant lawlessness of our age has its roots in the home. Women have been boasting of something they call "emancipation." Before these "emancipated" females, who paint and smoke and swear and clothe themselves in fig-leaves, — spineless preachers quake and quiver and quail as they demand that the word "obey" be stricken from the marriage ceremony. The laws of God establishing the divine relation between husband and wife are scorned. Lawless mothers breed lawless children. And that is almost the whole story. Not so long ago, before fathers abdicated the throne of the home to their infants, the average age of criminals was over forty. Today, it is less than twenty! When children should still be roosting at home, they are roosting in jail!

### Lawlessness Threatens The Destruction Of The State.

But a few years ago, the United States yielded its place at the pinnacle of civilization to none. It boasted the moral leadership of the world. Today, unprejudiced observers are telling us that it is the most lawless nation on earth. How can it be otherwise when officialdom leads the way? Chairman Wickersham, of the famous Hoover law-enforcement commission, after years of study, declared that the "ugly side of our officialdom" was found in the fact that law enforcement officers stoop "to attain their ends by means as illegal as the acts they seek to punish or suppress." Why did the "noble experiment" fail? It failed because of lawlessness at the fountain head of our government. A year ago, Sheilah Graham, newspaper correspondent, interviewed Mrs. Lewis Douglas, wife of the director of our national budget. She told him that, while the 18th amendment was still a part of the Constitution, and intoxicating liquor was an outlaw, yet the damnable "bootleg" was served at an official function attended by the members of the Cabinet and diplomatic service! She said:

"Every one at this function was delighted that at last the nonsense of secret drinking was over. I, myself, always for the seven years I have been in Washington, have served wine and liquor at my private parties, partly as a protest against prohibition, but chiefly because it is impossible to entertain without it. Before every state or official function, private parties were held, and most of the guests came there first."

What a fine example for the wife of the director of the national budget of

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the United States to set! And, in the light of her words, what are we to think of the men who have been guiding our ship of state? As for us, we must regard the bootlegging gangster who goes sneaking down dark alleys with his wares, a model of citizenry beside these hypocritical official gangsters who take solemn oath to uphold the law, and are given the great trust by the people, and then proceed to violate the confidence of a nation by trampling the Constitutional Law of the nation under foot. If they will do it in the matter of the liquor laws, they will do it in any other matter, if it serves their lusts. Imagine the condition of a nation should every citizen start out to "protest" against every law that he does not like, by breaking that law!

#### Our California Governor!

Finally, it was left for a governor of California to cap the climax of official lawlessness—to show that our nation, even as other nations of earth, is rotting in lawlessness. The day is still fresh in California's memory when two vicious young criminals kidnapped and foully murdered a young man in San Jose. They were arrested and imprisoned, awaiting trial. Beyond every shadow of a doubt, even in these days of chicken-hearted judges, shyster lawyers and week-kneed juries of sob-sisters, these young men, by due process of law, would have speedily gone to the gallows to expiate their crime. But, behold! a governor, who solemnly took oath that he would uphold the law of the State, deliberately encouraged and offered his protection to the howling mob that tore the garments from these two young criminals, beat them into a mass of bruises, and hung them up in their nakedness on the limbs of trees before 6,000 spectators in the midst of a city. In a day when disrespect for law and order threaten the very existence of civilization (for all civilization is based on the annihilation of violence), the governor of one of the greatest commonwealths on earth, not only refused to use the power at his command to uphold law and order, but he made alliance with the lawless mob by saying:

"This is the best lesson that the State has ever given to the country....If any one is arrested for the good job, I'll pardon them all....I have asked the wardens of San Quentin and Folsom for the names of those serving sentences for violent kidnapping. I am thinking of paroling these prisoners to citizens of San Jose who know how to handle such a situation."

What law-abiding citizen of California did not hang his head in shame as he read those words? One would think that a responsible governor must have had his mind temporarily deranged by the heat of his passion after brooding over the details of an unspeakable crime. But no! he continued until his death to affirm the righteousness of his stand! It will not place the

slightest strain on the feeblest of gray matter to understand that the spirit of "the angels that sinned" was the very same spirit that indwelt the San Jose mob, and was blessed by our California governor,—a spirit that the Word of God calls the spirit of "natural brute beasts" who "despise government" and "count it pleasure to riot," making themselves "servants of corruption." There is one difference—the fallen angels and the Sodomites "spoke evil of dignities" who evidently refused to join them whole-heartedly in their lawlessness. Today, our highest dignitaries join the mob! If the judgment of God fell upon a world that, in lawlessness, "spoke evil of its dignities," what are we to expect of Almighty God when once in His world of men, the "dignities" themselves bless or join the mobs?

#### What Does It Indicate?

Unless all signs fail, the lawlessness of the hour strongly speaks of the coming of the "lawless one," and the fall of the curtain upon our age. A lawless age will call for a lawless ruler. In a world wherein "lawlessness shall abound" (Matt. 24:12) and men shall "hate one another" (Matt. 24:10) human sorrow shall reach its zenith. Thank God for the promise that those days shall be short, for otherwise, "there should no flesh be saved" (Matt. 24:22). Just beyond our lawless night, lies the glorious day when the glorious prophecy of Malachi shall find its fulfillment—"the Sun of Righteousness (shall) arise with healing in His wings" (4:2).

How comforting it is to the true children of God that they are able to see even in the dark and lawless deeds of men—ever growing more and more lawless—the speedy fulfillment of our blessed hope—the speedy coming of "The Lion of The Tribe of Judah!"

"And the government shall be upon His shoulder: His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:6, 7).